21. The process according to claim 12, wherein each of the rod lenses to be placed has a center-line-average roughness of 0.5μm - 2.0 μm on the peripheral surface.

22. The process according to claim 12, wherein the rod lenses to be placed are such that representative values for the center-line-average roughness on their peripheral surfaces are between 0.01μm and 0.2 μm as averaged for the whole lens array.

a4

23. The process according to claim 12, wherein the rod lenses to be placed are such that representative values for the center-line-average roughness on their peripheral surfaces are between 0.01μm and 0.2 μm as expressed by standard deviation for the whole lens array.

24. The process according to claim 12, wherein the rod lenses to be placed are such that representative values for their diameters are between 0.01μm and 0.2 μm as expressed by standard deviation for the whole lens array.

29.. The rod lens array according to claim 26, wherein the representative values for the center-line-average roughness are each a value on a straight line that extends on the peripheral surface of the lens parallel to its axis.

a5

30. The rod lens array according to claim 26, wherein the representative values for the center-line-average roughness are each the average of values on different straight lines that extend on the peripheral surface of the lens along its axis.

a6

34. The rod lens array according to claim 26, further comprising:

a resin portion that is integral with the constituent rod lenses such that it fills the gap between adjacent rod lenses and surrounds all rod lenses.